

REMARKS

The Office Action of September 5, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In response, the application is being amended as summarized below.

The present Amendment revises claims 1 and 2 to more clearly recite the major features of the present invention. The present Amendment also adds new dependent claims 3 and 4 to further protect the present invention. New claim 3 recites the feature of "converting, in said local computer, the booking data received from said personal computer into data of a predetermined hypertext language to generate data for fare adjustment; and storing the data for fare adjustment in said local computer." New claim 4 is similar, but in apparatus-claim form. New claims 3 and 4 are supported (for example) by the passage at page 13 of the present application, lines 4-7.

The Office Action rejects independent claims 1 and 2 for obviousness on the basis of U.S. patent 5,781,892 to Hunt et al in view of U.S. patent 5,237,499 to Garback and U.S. patent 5,732,398 to Tagawa. For the reasons discussed below, however, it is respectfully submitted that the inventions now defined by claims 1 and 2 are patentable over these references.

According to the present application, a ticket booking processing is performed by a personal computer (PC 30) and a selected reservation system. On the other hand, a ticket issuing processing is performed by a local computer (the net server 21 and issuing terminal 23) and the selected reservation system. In other words, the personal computer and the local computer play different roles. In more detail, the local computer issues the ticket booked by the personal computer upon receiving the booking data (see page 13 of the present application, lines 12-22, i.e., paragraphs (20)-(21)). The booking data is

automatically sent from the personal computer to the local computer via a network (LAN 25) after the ticket issuing request is made (see page 12, lines 26 - page 13, lines 8, i.e., paragraph (18), and page 14, lines 6-8). Accordingly, there is no need of inputting the booking data including the booking number. Therefore, an input operation by the user for issuing a ticket becomes unnecessary (page 14, lines 8-9, i.e., paragraph (ii)). This specific arrangement of the present invention is neither taught nor suggested in the cited references.

Please note that the application describes a ticket booking processing that is performed from a fourth process (see page 11, lines 7-15, i.e., paragraph (10)) to the sixth process (page 12, line 26 - page 13, line 2, i.e., paragraph (18)). The ticket booking processing between the personal computer and the selected reservation system is recited in claim 1 as the steps of "connecting said personal computer ...," "transmitting and receiving information ...," and "generating, in said personal computer, booking data ...". On the other hand, a ticket issuing processing is performed at a seventh process (see page 13, lines 12-22, i.e., paragraphs (20)-(21)). The ticket issuing processing is recited in claim 1 as the steps of "receiving the booking data ...," and "issuing, by said local computer, ...". It is respectfully submitted that the above-noted features recited in claim 1 are neither disclosed nor suggested by Hunt et al, Garback, and Tagawa.

For reasons along the lines discussed above with respect to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by independent claim 2 is also patentable over the cited references.

In addition to the features recited in independent claims 1 and 2, new dependent claims 3 and 4 provide that the local computer generates "data for fare adjustment" upon receiving the booking data automatically sent from the personal computer. In more detail,

the application discloses that the local computer converts the booking data received from the personal computer into data of a predetermined hypertext language to generate data for fare adjustment and stores the data therein for fare adjustment (see page 13, lines 4-11, i.e., paragraph (19)). Therefore, an input operation for issuing plane tickets becomes unnecessary (page 14, lines 13-14, i.e., paragraph (iii)). The features recited in claims 3 and 4 are neither taught nor suggested in the cited references.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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